



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

OCT 11 2018

OFFICE OF  
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

The Honorable Shannon Wheeler  
Chairman  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 305  
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would like to invite your tribal government to initiate consultation with our Agency regarding the issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for four hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia River and four hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Snake River operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

Bonneville Project, WA0026778  
Exit 40, Interstate 84  
Cascade Locks, Oregon 97014

The Dalles Lock and Dam, WA0026701  
Exit 88, Interstate 84  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

John Day Project, WA0026832  
Exit 109, Interstate 84  
Rufus, Oregon 97050

McNary Lock and Dam, WA0026824  
82925 DeVore Road  
Umatilla, Oregon 97882

Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, WA0026816  
2763 Monument Drive  
Burbank, Washington 99323

Lower Monumental Lock and Dam  
5220 Devil's Canyon Road  
Kahlotus, Washington 99335

Little Goose Lock and Dam  
1001 Little Goose Dam Road  
Dayton, Washington 99359

Lower Granite Lock and Dam

885 Almota Ferry Road  
Pomeroy, Washington 99133

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These permits will address oil and grease discharges and pH from hydroelectric generating facilities. The permits that apply to the Lower Snake River discharge in areas of interest to the Nez Perce Tribe, but do not discharge directly into tribal waters. The permits that apply to the Lower Columbia River discharge downstream of areas of interest to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The EPA is planning to public notice draft NPDES permits for the Bonneville Project, The Dalles Lock and Dam, John Day Project, McNary Lock and Dam, Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, Little Goose Lock and Dam, and Lower Granite Lock and Dam in late October 2018. The EPA provided staff at the Nez Perce Tribe information on the development of these permits in August 2018 and presented an overview and status of these permits on September 19, 2018.

The EPA staff contact for this permitting action is Jenny Wu. You can reach her at (206) 553-6328, or via email at [Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov). The EPA would appreciate a response to this tribal consultation invitation no later than October 31, 2018. In your response, please include a designated tribal official for my staff to work with in the planning for tribal consultation. If your tribe has a policy regarding consultation with EPA, please include that, as well. If your tribe does not wish to request tribal consultation, there will still be opportunities to be involved and provide comments now or during the EPA's public comment period.

The enclosed documents are not available to the general public yet. Therefore, please do not release them to external parties until the formal public comment period is in effect. We will notify you when we begin the public comment period for this permit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 553-1855, if you or your tribal government have any questions or concerns regarding this letter. I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski  
Director

Enclosures

cc: Ken Clark, Nez Perce Tribe (via email)